

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A communication method ~~according to claim 1,~~  
~~further comprising the steps of:~~ of performing a wireless communication operation in a  
network including a plurality of communication stations having no relation of a control  
station and a controlled station, comprising:

transmitting from a communication station a beacon in which information with  
respect to the network is written;

setting by the communication station a state in which a reception operation is  
performed during a period of time before and after the transmission of said beacon signal;

exchanging by said communication station messages in order to transmit data with a  
communication station to which data should be transmitted when the data to be transmitted is  
generated;

setting by said communication station a state in which a reception operation is  
performed during a period of time in which said communication partner station transmits a  
beacon signal and during a neighboring period of time thereof;

judging by said communication station whether volume of data to be transmitted  
which is retained in a transmission station increases; and

generating at least one transmission trigger time between beacon signal transmission  
intervals when the volume of data to be transmitted which is retained in the transmission  
station increases,

wherein a transmission and reception procedure is started based on said transmission  
trigger time when the data to be transmitted exists in the transmission station.

Claim 9 (Original) A communication method according to claim 8,  
wherein said communication station continuously performs reception operation or transmission operation when it is judged that the volume of data to be transmitted further increases.

Claim 10-22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus ~~according to claim 16,~~  
which operates in a network built under a wireless communication environment of an autonomous distributed type, comprising:

communication means for transmitting and receiving wireless data;

beacon generation means for generating a beacon signal in which information with respect to the network is written to be transmitted by said communication means; and

control means for setting a state in which a reception operation is performed during periods of time before and after the transmission of the beacon signal generated by said beacon generation means,

wherein said control means controls an exchange of messages in order to transmit data with a communication partner to whom the data should be transmitted when the data to be transmitted is generated; performs a reception operation by said communication means during a period of time in which said communication partner transmits a beacon signal and during a neighboring period of time thereof; judges whether the retained volume of data to be transmitted increases; generates at least one transmission trigger time between beacon signal transmission intervals when the volume of data to be transmitted increases, and starts transmission and reception in said communication means based on the transmission trigger time.

Claim 24 (Original) A communication apparatus according to claim 23,  
wherein said control means makes reception operation or transmission operation  
continuously performed by said communication means when it is judged that the volume of  
data to be transmitted further increases.

Claim 25-31 (Canceled).